

sardis signposts baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811

sardisbaptistcharlotte.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 AM—
Sunday School

11:00 AM—
Morning Worship

OUR LENTEN TABLE

Each year at Sardis, our goal during the season of Lent is less about giving something up, and more about taking something on. In 2017, we spent time reflecting on how we could expand our table. Specifically, we thought about the people who were missing: seekers, doubters, and those who feel marginalized to name a few. And we concentrated on inviting them to our table.

This year, the table remains our central focus. For Sardis, the table is a place to come together, to fill up both physically and spiritually, and to break down barriers. But our table can only be life-giving and transformative if it includes conversations of substance. It's not enough for our table to only express what is comfortable. It should also be a place where we openly discuss what prevents us from realizing the full potential God has for us, both individually and collectively.

Jesus said, "Follow me," in order that we might be invited to experience God's realm bursting into the present. Are we willing to acknowledge that while we seek to follow Jesus, we also cling to earthly systems that offer us a false sense of safety and security? This season, we want to acknowledge the pull the advantages and privileges gained in such systems has on each of our lives. And this season, we want to use a table to help us understand that pull, and move toward a space where God's gravity has more impact, and its inertia moves us a little closer to the kingdom Christ bid come.

So pull up a chair. Join us each Sunday for another heaping of conversation. And when Maundy Thursday arrives, we'll share again at the table. Sure, there will be the food and fellowship and laughter we've come to expect each time we gather. But if we're lucky, perhaps there will also be the kinds of conversations that fill us with much needed truth.



PANCAKE Party

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a night of feasting and celebrating and that is exactly what we'll do here at Sardis! It always falls the night before Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent and a period of time when some people choose to give up fatty foods (or other vices) so it's sometimes referred to as Fat Tuesday. The tradition of eating pancakes during shrovetide began in the 16th century. Christians were encouraged to use up ingredients such as butter and eggs that were discouraged during the fasting season.

Join us at 5:45 PM on Tuesday, February 13th. We'll serve pancakes with all the best toppings, then we'll celebrate with Queen City Groove. They'll join us to provide extraordinary entertainment a Capella.

It's time once again for Sardis to host Room In The Inn (RITI). We generally host between 8 and 12 guests, both male and female. The church provides dinner in the evening and breakfast the next morning. Our guests sleep on air mattresses in the education building. Our RITI date is set for Saturday, February 17th. Volunteers are needed—drivers, dinner hosts, overnights, breakfast hosts, cleaners and laundry washers. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex, or you may call or email the church office.



"For moments each night, if I am fortunate, I sleep not as homeless in the street, but with warmth and friendship, thanks to Room In The Inn. Somewhere during the evenings of friendly faces, piping hot showers, videos and jokes, laughs and sharing a smoke break, I was transformed from homeless to someone with a misfortune. I no longer view the world from ground level, where each may look down on me. I view the world from ground zero, where each may view my launch.

I thank you, all who volunteer for this program. You have given me fortitude, I am sure that I am not alone in this."



2017: A Year to Remember

Dear Sardis Family,

Each week, our closing benediction proclaims: May God's spirit swirl all around you and leave you with a grin. And may that grin turn into a smile. And may that smile turn into an act of kindness. And together, we will be a chorus of love, empowered to be the hands of Christ in our community.

Because of your generosity, Sardis' chorus of love sang loud and sang often in 2017. We are pleased to announce that Sardis exceeded its giving goals in 2017, and because of your continued generosity, we are poised to do even bigger things in 2018. We want to express our gratitude for the financial contributions you've made in the past year — every penny you contribute makes a significant difference in enhancing the ministries of this place.

There were a number of highlights in 2017. Tillie Duncan was named Pastor Emerita (a title Pam Durso of Baptist Women in Ministry tells us is a first in Baptist circles!). In addition, Hilary Kearns and Kathryn Kreutzer were given the titles of Minister of Music and Minister of Congregational Support — they'll be officially ordained in the Spring of 2018. Worship highlights included an Easter Sunrise Service, a Blessing of the Animals, Camp Sardis, Communion Brunches in July and December, and our first ever Servant Sunday. We also introduced the virtual passing of the peace and cafe seating on special Sundays. Our youth enjoyed trips to the CBFNC beach and ski retreats, as well as Unidiversity in July. During Sardis Academy, the congregation considered the crippling effects of the affordable housing crisis, engaged in interfaith dialogue with friends from the Muslim Community Center of Charlotte, and explored ways to improve our mental health: Mindfulness Meditation and Laughter Yoga.

Sardis also worked hard to help its neighbors: Saturdays of Service in Lent included volunteer opportunities with the Habitat Restore, CMPD and hymn caroling; Sardis members collected school supplies for students at University Park Creative Arts Academy and spare change in medicine bottles for Baptist Retirement Homes' Medicine for the Heart offering. During November and December, Sardis collected more than 450 pounds of canned food for Loaves and Fishes and dozens of warmth items for Hope Chapel. (continued on back)



Machu Picchu in the Peruvian Andes Mountains evokes images of mystery: ancient civilizations, mountain terrain, hidden treasure. An avid hiker, Ruthye Cooley experienced breath-taking moments when she hiked Camino Inka last fall. She and a friend took the shortest of the Machu Picchu hiking trails, walking nine miles to the Sun Gate of the ancient city. The day-long walk through cloud forests and up steep inclines featured beautiful scenery and glimpses of area fauna. Llamas could be seen grazing everywhere, along with alpacas, guinea pigs (a local table delicacy), and condors (dinosaur-like birds now on the endangered list). After climbing 3000 feet, Ruthye was glad to spend the night in the town near the ruins. The next day was spent descending. Parts of the trails up to Machu Picchu are part of the original Incan road system.

Another interest of Ruthye's has also led to travel. She enjoys singing and belongs to two groups. The Palmetto Voices Spiritual Ensemble of Sumter, SC, has sung at Carnegie Hall in New York and has performed in Florence, Italy. The group was formed for the preservation of spirituals, founded by women who specialize in the musical genre. She also is a member of the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, which will be celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year. Ruthye has participated with the group since 2005, the second thing she joined on moving to Charlotte.

Ruthye and husband Ben have one son Brandon who is currently living and working in Boston. She is a Furman Purple Paladin, but also attended Oberlin College in Ohio.

Sardis Baptist Church



We've been busy at Sardis these last couple of months! And we couldn't have accomplished all that we have without the help of many volunteers—too many to list.

During the season of Advent many helped with our Hanging of the Greens breakfast, preparation and cleanup from Sing S'More Songs (our annual Christmas party), and our Christmas Eve Communion Brunch. The Sardis Choir gets a special shout out for their amazing rendition of the Christmas cantata, *Breath of Heaven*. Our minister of music, Hilary Kearns, arranged to have The Little Opera Company bring *Hansel & Gretel* to Sardis to celebrate the season. Many thanks to the group of Sardis singers who shared Christmas joy around our city during an afternoon of Christmas caroling.

In January, Pastor Jonathan presented an alternative perspective of some well know New Testament stories using video of The Cotton Patch Gospels. A number of Sardis peeps, male and female from teen to senior, joined thousands of others at the Charlotte Women's March. Jonathan and Hilary chaperoned a group of youth to Ghent, West Virginia for a ski retreat with other youth from Co-operative Baptist Fellowship churches.

In addition to our special events, the day-to-day and week-to-week volunteers continued to show up for duty! Thank you to our Worship Leaders, Fellowship Volunteers, Worship Development Team, Flower and Decorating Stewards, Building & Grounds Crew, Worship Caregivers and, last but not least, those who pay our bills. We are grateful for the community efforts that make Sardis special!

“
**Prayer
changes
everything.**”

Fay Alderman • Mark Almond, Jacqueline Stillerman's uncle • Suzette Buchan, Danny Phillips' sister • Melissa Bowlin • Jim & Yvonne Cherokee, friends of Kristin Jackson • Ben Cooley, Ruthye Cooley's husband • Ruthye Cooley's mother • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Nancy Darnell, St. Andrews Living Center • Ed DePasquale, friend of William Kruger • Howard Etheredge, friend of David Kreutzer • Dennis Espenschied, Jonathan's brother-in-law • Brittany Gates, friend of Tammy Taylor • Janette Grassi • Don Hill, Stewart Health Center • Doris Hunter, Anne Hunter Eidson's mother • William Kruger • Tammy Moore, Tim's sister-in-law • Odell Peterson, Howell's brother • Rachael Phipps, Sean Bracey's wife • Teena Proctor, Rick's mother • Kitty Tate, Becky Proctor's sister • Mala Reynolds • Friends and Family of Violet Ross, June's mother-in-law • Bill Sease, Becky Owen's brother • Carson Sholin, Carmel Square Senior Living • Eddie Waiters, husband of Doris Waiters who cleans at Sardis •

PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT – MELISSA BOWLIN
704.458.9773 / MBOWLIN@CMPD.ORG

SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Bob Stillerman, Pastor
919.810.4044 / bobstillerman77@gmail.com

Rev. Jonathan Eidson, Pastor
704.622.9984 / sardisjonathan@yahoo.com

Hilary Kearns, Minister of Music
704.517.4417 / sardishilary@yahoo.com

Kathryn Kreutzer, Minister of Congregational Support
704.241.6927 / info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org

Irena Hramenkova, Pianist

LAKE DAY

FISHING? SWIMMING? KAYAKING? GAMES? JUNK FOOD? S'MORES?

If you're interested in going to the lake this spring, let J Swizz know the dates that'll work for you. We're in the planning phase now so phone, text, email, smoke signal our shout to J Swizz so he can finalize plans.

SKI RETREAT FAVORITES

Matthew — "I liked skiing and eating out with everybody at Pizza Hut / IHOP."

Jackson — "I liked roasting Summer's hairline and going skiing with Mr. Jonathan and Madison."

Madison — "My favorit things about the ski retreat this year were going on some new/hearder slopes and joking around with the group."

Summer — "I really liked snowboarding & ski lifts & the pool. It was really fun. The church was good & it was a good weekend."

Hilary — "Even though I didn't ski for long, I loved the chance to spend time with everyone and hear from some wonderful speakers."

Jonathan — "I loved tubing on Friday night. I loved begin with Hilary, Jackson, Madison, Matthew and Summer! I enjoyed our conversations and laughter. It was a great weekend!"



CAMP

Last summer, Pastors Jonathan and Hilary led the youth group to our neighbor state for an amazing camp week. This summer our youth will once again make the journey to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN for UniDiversity. We'll arrive on campus on Monday, July 23rd and leave for home on Saturday, July 28th. Sardis will subsidize the cost of camp, bringing your total down to \$250 per person.

So what is it? UniDiversity is a week-long Christian summer camp for teenagers. Camp is planned and lead by church ministers and adult volunteers who have a passion for connecting teens with Christ and with each other. UniDiversity is over 20 years old and traditionally gathers on college campuses in the south-east. The camp follows a collegiate theme with its schedule and takes full advantage of everything the campuses have to offer.

Churches from Missouri to the coast of South Carolina join in for the fun and fellowship of the camp. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our youth. See Pastor Jonathan or Pastor Hilary for more information.



Sardis Baptist Church — Worship



February Leaders

FEBRUARY 4TH

Worship Care.....Betty Gunz and
Erin Kennedy
Greeter / Vestibule.....Joe Wall
Ushers.....Howell Peterson,
Valerie Rutherford and Joe Wall

FEBRUARY 11TH

Worship Care.....Lisa Kennedy and
Sara Bowlin
Greeter / Vestibule.....Ron Demme
Ushers.....Fay Alderman, Ron Demme
and Madison Kreutzer

FEBRUARY 18TH

Worship Care.....Olivia Dumez
and Maria Elena Floren
Greeter / Vestibule.....John Simpson
Ushers.....Janette Grassi, John Simpson and
June Ross

FEBRUARY 25TH

Worship Care.....Barbara Mosley and
Mary Jane Osborne
Greeter / Vestibule.....Marge Fowler
Ushers.....Brandon, Summer and
Valerie Rutherford



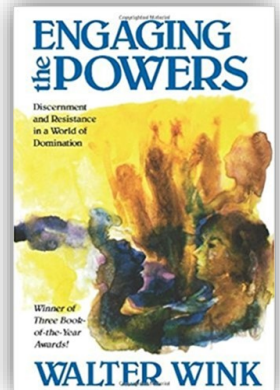
EASTER CANTATA

Following the success of our first Christmas Cantata, the Sardis Baptist Choir will present its first Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday, March 25th. The choir will begin rehearsals for this new piece in February, so if you or someone you know might be interested in participating, please contact Hilary Kearns or the Sardis Office.

As we like to say at the end of worship, this invitation is not set in time: if you would like to join the choir, whenever that may be, the door is always open. We want your voice, no matter who you are or how much experience you have!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult Sunday School group is studying Walter Wink's book *Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination*. Join them on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM if you would like to be a part of their interesting discussions.



We will not host our usual 2nd Sunday class in February. Our regular adult Sunday School class will meet on February 11th at 9:45 AM. Our next Second Sunday session will be on March 11th at 9:45 AM, when Hilary will lead us in a Lenten Taize service.

Sardis Baptist Church — Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1 style="color: #c00000; text-align: center;">February</h1>				1	2	3
					Groundhog Day 	
4 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Youth Event Lunch	5	6	7 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	8	9	10
11 Transfiguration Sunday 11:00 AM Worship Communion	12	13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:45 PM 	14  Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM Worship at Sardis Presbyterian	15	16	17 Room In The Inn 
18  1 st Sunday of Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	19 President's Day 	20	21 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	22	23	24
25 2 nd Sunday of Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	26	27	28 4:45 PM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Fellowship Meal 6:30 PM Moms Demand Action 7:45 PM Choir Practice			

Christy Clark, the North Carolina Chapter Leader for *Mom's Demand Action* will join us for Sardis Academy on February 28th to discuss this grassroots organization. *Moms Demand Action* supports the 2nd Amendment, but believes common-sense solutions can help decrease the epidemic of gun violence that kills too many of our children and loved ones every day.

Sardis Baptist Church – Business

SARDIS OFFERINGS



We are thrilled to share some positive bullet points from our 2017 financial statements, and we offer gratitude for your part in helping Sardis Baptist Church meet our goals for giving in 2017.

- ***Our total 2017 offerings were \$161,474.05, compared to \$155,000.00 budgeted.***
- ***Our total 2017 income was \$204,248.00. We received \$167,911.00 to cover operating costs, compared to \$165,000.00 budgeted.***
- ***The 2017 Operations Expenses through were \$144,232.00 compared with \$175,292.00 budgeted.***

We are thankful for your generosity, and ask that you continue to give thoughtful consideration to how much members of your household can give time, talents, and financial contributions to sustain the ministries of Sardis Baptist Church.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our first quarterly conference of 2018 is scheduled for Sunday, February 18th following worship. We have important items to discuss and vote on, so we hope you'll be able to join us. Agenda items include the following:

- The Board of Stewards will present nominations for open board positions to the congregation for a vote.
- The Board of Stewards will present nominations for open stewardship positions to the congregation for a vote.
- The Board of Trustees will present the 2018 Budget to the congregation for a vote. Copies of the budget will be available during the conference. If you'd like an opportunity to review it before the conference, please contact the church office and we will gladly send it to you.
- The Board of Trustees will present financial statements from 4th quarter 2017.

We hope to see you on Sunday, February 18th. Sardis Baptist is a church full of lay ministers, and we value the input of all!



Please note the following changes in your directory:

- Linda Cook's new mailing address—248 Kipling Lane / Chapel Hill, NC 27516
- Marge Fowler's mobile number—704.942.6559
- Kristin Jackson's email—kristinjackson1964@gmail.com

2017 GIVING STATEMENTS

2017 giving statements are currently being processed and will be mailed out the week of February 11th.



Sardis Baptist Church



A Year to Remember (continued from page 2)

In the fall, Sardis raised more than \$2,000 for CROP Walk, and offered a free music camp for elementary school children. Our church also maintained its annual giving to the missions of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina. These dollars help support local and global missions, divinity schools to train our clergy, homes for both children and the aged, hospitals, the WMU and Baptist Men, the Alliance of Baptists, and countless other organizations that spread God's love in tangible ways.

Your generosity also benefited Sardis in subtle ways: One of our three main HVAC units was replaced, the second in two years, and funds are being set aside to replace the third when the need arises; A new copier has been procured, as well as a new piano for the music room; The playground was re-mulched in July; several large oak trees, as well as brush and debris piles were removed from the property. Candles, flowers, and other liturgical elements were purchased to help enhance worship. In addition, your contributions helped pay for utilities, staff salaries, guest speakers and musicians, fellowship activities and meals, administrative expenses including postage, printing, and paper, custodial and landscaping services, educational materials, printed music and licensing, and insurance, just to name a few.

God is at work in and through the people of Sardis Baptist Church! As we reflect on a successful 2017, we offer our deepest thanks for you and your contributions. You give us bright hope for where God will lead Sardis in the year ahead.

Wishing you God's blessing and God's peace,
The Trustees of Sardis Baptist Church - Linda Cook, Lisa Kennedy (Chairperson) & David Sigmon



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